

First record of *Seriola fasciata* (Carangidae) from Galician waters (NW Spain). A new northernmost occurrence in the NE Atlantic

by

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RÉSUMÉ. - Premier signalement de *Seriola fasciata* (Carangidae) dans les eaux galiciennes (nord-ouest de l'Espagne). Capture la plus septentrionale en Atlantique nord-est.

La Sériole babiane *Seriola fasciata* est signalée pour la première fois sur les côtes de la Galice (nord-ouest de l'Espagne). C'est pour cette espèce le signalement connu le plus septentrional en Atlantique est. Parmi les poissons à affinités tropicales nouvellement signalés dans l'Atlantique européen, la famille des carangidés est la plus représentée, avec un nombre croissant d'espèces signalées.

Key words. - Carangidae - *Seriola fasciata* - ANE - NW Spain - Galicia - First record.

The genus *Seriola* is composed by nine valid species that occur worldwide in tropical and temperate regions (Balanov, 2008). Only three of them inhabit the European continental waters: *Seriola rivoliana*, *S. dumerili* and *S. carpenteri* (Quéro *et al.*, 2003).

The lesser Amberjack *S. fasciata* (Bloch, 1793) is a coastal pelagic or demersal carangid found between 55 and 348 m depth. Its distribution ranged from the western Atlantic (from Massachusetts, USA, to Brazil) to the Mediterranean Sea and eastern Atlantic (Islands of St Helena, Madeira, Canary and Azores) (Smith-Vaniz, 1986; Bunkley-Williams and Williams, 2004; Machado and Barreiros, 2006).

The specimen (Fig. 1) was caught by a sport fisherman by jig fishing on 19th September 2008 in the Ría de Arousa (South Galicia) at 12 m depth (Fig. 2). This record constitutes a new extended northern limit for the distribution of *S. fasciata* in the eastern Atlantic.

The specimen was preserved in 70% ethanol and deposited in the fish collection of the Museum Luis Iglesias de Ciencias Naturais of Santiago de Compostela (Galicia, Spain) with the reference number 6156.

The main meristic counts and measurements are given following Andaloro *et al.* (2005). D₁: VIII; D₂: I+30; A: II+I+19; P: I+20; V: I+5; branchiostegal rays 7; gillrakers in first arch: 8 + 1 + 17 = 26. The following measurements are given in millimetres, followed by percentages of fork length within parentheses: total length 327; fork length: 276; standard length 255; head length 70 (25.4); preorbital length 19 (6.9); postorbital length 33 (12); horizontal eye diameter 18 (6.5); predorsal₁ length: 87 (31.5); predorsal₂ length: 122 (44.2); first dorsal base length: 33 (12); second dorsal base length: 108 (39.1); second dorsal lobe length: 37 (13.4); preanal length: 156 (56.5); soft anal base length: 61 (22.1); maxillary length: 11 (4); pectoral length: 41 (14.9); ventral length: 51 (18.5); body depth: 96 (34.8) and body width: 42 (15.2).

Soft anal fin base contained 1.8 times in second dorsal fin base



Figure 1. - *Seriola fasciata*, 327 mm TL.

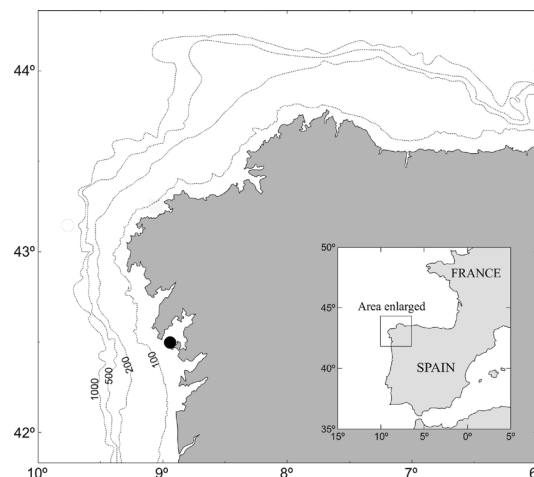


Figure 2. - Map showing the area and station where the specimen of *Seriola fasciata* was captured.

and 4.5 times in fork length; second dorsal fin lobe contained 7.5 times in the fork length. Colour grey-pinkish, darker dorsally and lighter in sides and ventrally; dark nuchal bar from eye to nape; 7 irregular dark vertical body bands; inter-radial membranes of soft dorsal and anal fins blackish distally; tip of anal-fin lobe white.

The distribution range of this species in the north-eastern Atlantic was uncertain due to past confusion with *S. carpenteri* (Smith-Vaniz, 1986).

This catch constitutes a new record of tropical affinity fishes northwards of their habitual distribution range, which has been attributed probably to ocean warming (Quéro *et al.*, 1998; Bañón *et al.*, 2002). In Atlantic European waters, a large number of new records of warm species are carangids. In French waters, Quéro *et al.* (2007) report an increase of carangid species from three at the beginning of the 19th century to ten in the present. Similarly, this

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phenomenon has been observed in Galician waters, in which carangid species increased from four at the beginning of the 20th century to eleven in the present.

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